



**MAMMOTH LAKES FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 15, 2019**

1) CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 pm

A full Board was present: Carole Schilz, John Mendel, Roger Curry, Bret Bihler, and Buck Wahl.

Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District present: Fire Chief Frank Frievault, Division Chief Scott Walker, Division Chief Ales Tomaier, Division Chief Natalie Morrow, and Secretary Jody Holl.

Mammoth Lakes Firefighter Association board member present: Michael Payne

Legal Counsel present: Rick Liebersbach

In the audience: Robert Williams

2) APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 18, 2018 MEETING MINUTES

The minutes were motioned for approval by Commissioner Wahl and seconded by Commissioner Curry. All in favor.

3) SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS - None

4) GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT -

Michael Payne spoke about our training room being used by for profit organizations. He suggested when a for profit organization uses our room, perhaps we could ask if a MLFD member could attend their class at no charge. Classes such as Hunter Safety or the Avalanche Awareness would be useful for MLFD to attend. The Board agreed, they will leave the decision for the Chief to make the request on a as needed/ per class basis.

5) CONSENT AGENDA

- a) The Board is requested to rotate Chairman and Vice Chair. With the Board's approval Roger Curry will be appointed Chairman of the Board and John Mendel will be appointed Vice Chairman of the Board, for the year 2019.

The Board approved appointing Roger Curry as Chairman and John Mendel as Vice Chairman for 2019.

6) BUDGET

- a) Review 2018/2019 Budget

We are 194 days or 53% into our year. Our expense is at 61% or \$1,887,381. However, this amount includes \$156,863 in Capital Outlays that were not in the budget. The capital outlays were scheduled for purchase in our Capital Repair & Replacement budget. We transfer \$250,000 a year from our operating budget to our Capital Repair & Replacement budget. Chief Frievault will begin to budget for these items in next year.

- b) *Our Mono County first apportionment check was received for \$ 1,919,130.37*

On average since 2012 the first apportionment is 60.43% of the total received for the year. With our County budgeted revenue at \$3,048,499 the received amount exceeds the 60.43% by \$76,922

7) OLD BUSINESS

- a) Update on legal limits and liability concerning Commissioner Curry's request to educate and train Mammoth locals to stay and protect their homes, in lieu of evacuation, during a wildfire.

Chief Frievaldt summarized the articles he included in the agenda packet:

- *An article from the October 2011 NFPA (National Fire Protection Agency) Journal: "Stay or Go? There are no easy answers for when or if to evacuate when wildfire threatens, but NFPA is providing people in fire prone areas with important information on how to be prepared."*
- *A December 7, 2017 article from the USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station on "Wildfire Evacuations – Why do some choose to stay and others to leave".*
- *A web page produced by FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) called Wildfires/ Ready.gov*
- *And Cal Fire information titled: "Wildfire is coming, are you ready?" from the web page www.readyforwildfire.org*

NFPA article is used as a current authority and information on the subject. The NFPA is not law but it is used as a best practice. The USFS article was chosen for its technical information. And ready.gov is purpose driven on what to do in a wildfire. The State of California has the authority to do a mandatory evacuation. However, it is rarely used.

If we promote wildfire preparation and protection through structural hardening and fuels management to the community as if they were going to stay, then whether you stay or go your home should survive a wildfire. There is no definite answer. Most people that choose to stay & defend, base their decision on inaccurate information.

Those that have prepared their home and property against wildfire tend to stay longer. He will not risk life for property. We will not risk the life of firefighters to help the person who would not evacuate and now needs assistance.

We could educate the community on "shelter in place" to be used when evacuating is not possible. To be taught as a survival

8) NEW BUSINESS

- a) Review and vote on request for purchase of loader –

Division Chief Scott Walker requested the purchase of 2014 Case Loader for \$85,338. The total cost will be \$97,018 this includes: chains, blade for the bucket, transport from Fresno to Mammoth, and fluids changed. This purchase is in our Capital Repair and Replacement Schedule, for \$100,000 to be purchased in 2018.

This will be a second loader to back up the 1995 loader we currently own.

Commissioner Schilz motioned to approve the purchase. Commissioner Wahl seconded the motion. All in favor.

- b) Review and request approval for FDAC Conference travel for Fire Chief Frank Frievalt and Commissioner Carole Schilz.
- c) Review and request approval for Chief Frievalt's travel request to attend the Western Fire Chief's Association Policy Team – Paradise Fire Field Trip

The Board approved all travel requests.

9) REPORTS, REQUESTS, AND COMMUNICATIONS FOR BOARD REVIEW - *None*

10) DISTRICT CHIEF COMMENTS –

- a) OPEB (Other Post-Employment Benefits) preliminary analysis, reports a current liability of \$1,749,012

Chief Frievalt received the draft of our GASB 75 report. The District's OPEB is caused by the health insurance premiums we currently pay for retirees and future health insurance we will need to pay on retirees. We pay these monthly on a pay as you go. The liability is not funded through a separate account.

- b) Update on job announcements for the Administrative Assistant to the Fire Chief, the Full Time Training & Administration Firefighter and the Full Time Inspector 1/ Firefighter positions.

The Administrative Assistant position will be open January 12 – February 15. The Firefighter positions will close on January 18.

- c) Request for Letter of Non-Interference from Triad/ Holmes & Associates.

We received a letter from Triad/ Holmes & Associates requesting a non-interference letter for property at Tentative Tract Map 36-236B, Snowcreek VII Condominiums. Rick Liebersbach explained the letter: The condominium project has an adjoining easement with our property at Fire Station 2 and they are getting ready to record a final map. Since the easement belongs to us (a public entity) they are required to have our approval and sign off on the map. Rick will ask Jeff Pfeiler of Triad for a map so that the District can review it and make a decision on the easement's interference. To approve or not of the map.

11) BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS - *None*

12) LEGAL COUNSEL ADVICE –

Rick will review cases, disclosures, and laws regarding educating the community on "Shelter in Place" and "Stay and Defend".

Rick received a phone call from Ann Larson of Mono County Counsel she wanted to let our Board know that there is an alternate seat open on the Mono County LAFCO (Local Agency Formation Commission). If a current member was unable to serve, then the alternate would be called in. The alternate receives all the same correspondence as the commissioners do. None of our Board members were interested in serving at this time.

13) MLFPD FIREFIGHTER ASSOCIATION COMMENTS - *None*


14) ANNOUNCEMENTS - None

15) ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES

- a) *Cities, counties and special districts in California are required by law ([AB 1234, Chapter 700, Stats. of 2005](#)) to provide ethics training to their local officials every 2 years. Frank Frievalt, Buck Wahl, and Bret Bihler your ethics training is due. You can log onto <http://www.fppc.ca.gov/learn/public-officials-and-employees-rules-/ethics-training.html> To complete your required training. Frank Frievalt, Buck Wahl, and Bret Bihler will work on completing the training.*

- b) *The next meeting was scheduled for 12 noon, Tuesday, February 19, 2019*

16) ADJOURNEMENT – *The meeting adjourned at 1:47 pm*


Commissioner signature

Carole A. Schiltz
Print Name

3-19-19
Date


Commissioner signature

Roger Curry
Print Name

3-19-19
Date